

**May 2003 AGENDA**

SUBJECT	X	ACTION
	X	INFORMATION
		PUBLIC HEARING
California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE): Including, but not limited to, Presentation of the Report Required by AB 1609.		

Recommendation:

This report is being presented to the State Board of Education (SBE) for information this month and for action at a future meeting.

Summary of Previous State Board of Education Discussion and Action

Assembly Bill (AB) 1609 (Ch. 716, 2001, Calderon) required the State Superintendent of Public Instruction (SSPI), with the approval of the SBE, to contract for an independent study regarding the requirement of passage of the CAHSEE as a condition of receiving a diploma of graduation and a condition of graduation from high school. A final report based on the study is to be delivered to the Governor, the chairs of the education policy committees in the California Legislature, SBE, and the SSPI, on or before May 1, 2003.

The study is to include, but not be limited to, examination of whether the test development process and the implementation of standards-based instruction meet the required standards for a test of this nature.

The Human Resources Research Organization (HumRRO) is conducting this study. California Department of Education (CDE) staff and SBE testing liaisons have reviewed the study design.

In March 2002, SBE received a report on the status of the study required by AB 1609. The contract was signed in late September 2002.

During November, the draft surveys were reviewed by the contractors' outside consultant panel, CDE staff and SBE testing liaisons and staff.

HumRRO and CDE have been providing status briefings to SBE on the report since November.

Summary of Key Issue(s)

AB 1609 was passed to require the SSPI to contract for an independent study to determine the state's readiness to require the Class of 2004 to pass the high school exit examination as a condition of receiving a diploma of graduation from high school. This bill also authorized the SBE to delay the date for requiring students to pass the high school exit examination if the SBE determines, based on the results of the study, that the test development process or the implementation of standards-based instruction does not meet the required standards for a test of this nature.

Summary of Key Issue(s)

HumRRO is already the independent evaluator to examine the high school exit examination test development process. Additionally, they conducted a survey this spring of approximately 600 high schools from 480 school districts as well as one feeder middle school for each high school. They also visited about 61 schools to get more detailed information than in the survey. They were looking student pass rates, particularly for English learners and students with disabilities; remediation programs; instructional materials; and current courses in English-language arts and mathematics.

Fiscal Analysis (as appropriate)

None.

Attachment(s)

None.